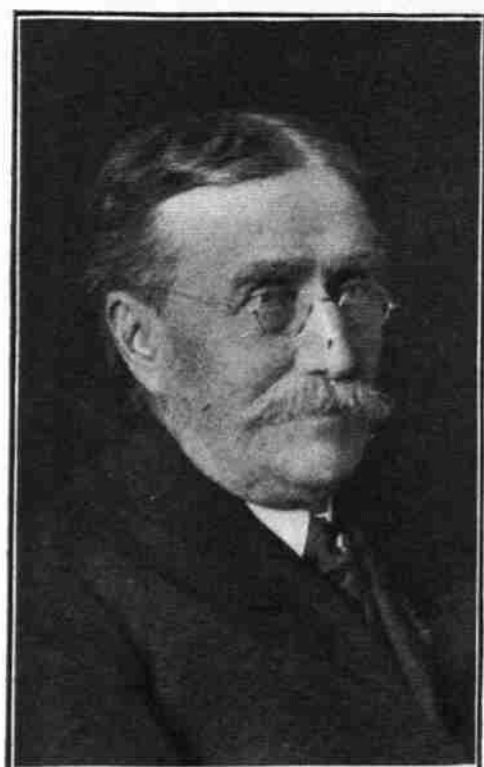


Virginia Union University, Richmond, Va.

Rev. George Rice Hovey, D.D., President

THE Virginia Union University is a union of Richmond Theological Seminary and of Wayland Seminary.

Wayland Seminary was started in 1865 in some old army barracks in Washington. For several years it occupied those uncomfortable buildings, and did the work needed for the



G. M. P. King, D.D.

freedmen of all ages who were ambitious to secure an education. The principal subjects taught were reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic and geography, with the Bible always the most prominent text-book. Many teachers and preachers were sent out from the school. From the earliest years Rev. G. M. P. King, D.D., was President of the Seminary. Dr. King is now a member of the faculty of Virginia Union University, occupying the chair of English Language and Literature in the College, and of

English Interpretation in the theological department.

A large brick building was erected on Meridian Hill, and the school grew into an Academy and a Normal school, with from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy-five young men and women in attendance. From thirty to forty of the young men at any given time were preparing for the Christian ministry.

“Lumpkins Jail, the Slave Pen,” the First Home

During these years Richmond Institute and Theological Seminary was developing in Richmond. The Institute was started by Nathaniel Colver, the great preacher and abolitionist. Its first home was Lumpkins Jail, the slave pen in which was the block where slaves were put up at auction in the city of Richmond, the building in which they were confined while they were awaiting sale. Dr. Colver's health soon failed, and in 1868 Rev. Chas. H. Corey, D.D., became the president of the school. From the beginning this school was devoted especially to the training of ministers, although many other students attended it in the early years. In 1884 an extensive theological

course was started, and the other work was entirely discontinued. Many of the most prominent Negro Baptist preachers of the South have been graduated from this school.

In 1899 Wayland Seminary was moved from Washington, and Richmond Theological Seminary was moved out of the saloons and tobacco warehouses of the city into the fine granite buildings on the outskirts of the capital of the Old Dominion. The schools were united under the name of the Virginia Union University.

The credit for the establishment of this school belongs properly to Gen. Thos. J. Morgan, D.D., Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. It was his determination that secured the money which erected the school. Among the chief benefactors of this school are John D. Rockefeller; Mr. J. B. Hoyt; Gov. Abner Coburn, of Maine; Hon. Chester W. Kingsley, of Boston; Mr. Martin E. Gray, of Illinois; Miss Onderdonck and Mr. Byron E. Huntley, of New York; Hon. Henry Kirk Porter, of Pittsburg, and Hon. Elisha S. Converse, of Boston. The gifts of these generous friends have made possible a substantial and beautiful group of buildings.

The University and Its Equipment

The University was organized by Dr. Malcolm McVicker, Superintendent of Education of the American Baptist Home Mission Society and afterwards President of the University. A high-grade college course was established and the theological department was further developed, so that now those two establishments rank among the very highest that are open to colored students, and are practically equivalent to the ordinary school of the same grade in the North.

The school is for boys and young men only, and has an enrollment of about two hundred and fifty. There is a flourishing Academy, and manual training is required of all students in that department. The Institute has an unusual opportunity, being the only school in the state of Virginia for the higher education of colored young men, the only one that really fits them for an intelligent leadership and for professional work.

The grounds of the University occupy forty acres on the northwest boundary of the city, adjoining Hartshorn Memorial College. There are eleven large gray granite buildings, said to be the finest buildings connected with any Southern institution for the education of the Negro. The property is valued at \$300,000. The endowment fund was \$92,000 in 1907.